(5) Captive facilities for port based industries.

(c) A list of approved private sector participation projects is annexed as statement.*

Efficiency in port operations

108. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the efficiency of port operations is suffering due to congestion of ports;

(b) the names of ports that require immediate decongestion;

(c) whether Government have initiated ahy action to effect decongestion of the ports, both in the short-term and long-term; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ports of Mumbai, Kandla, Visakhapatnam and Madras require immediate decongestion.

(c) and (d) A campaign has been launched with effect from September 1. 1997 to reduce the pre-berthing detention for the vessels at the Major Ports; improving productivity and to reduce congestion.

Improvement of National Highways

109. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned seventeen projects worth Rs. 17.6 crores for improvement of national Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the amount of money sanctioned for national Highways in North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Total number of projects approved so far are 192 and their sanctioned cost is about Rs. 181.64 crores.

(c) Nine Projects with a total cost of Rs. 850.36 lakhs have been sanctioned upto 11.11.1997 for National Highways in North-Eastern States.

Mumbai Port Trust Plan to Tackle Ship Wreckages

110. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has obtained a detailed time frame from the Mumbai Port Trust on its plan to tackle the ship wreckages either sunk or run around the port;

(b) if so, whether the port authorities have submitted their plan and if not, what deadline has been given for submission thereof; and

(c) the number of vessels wreckages took place in the Mumbai Port Trust?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A total of six ship wrecks are lying in the northern port of the Bombay Harbour. There is a plan to remove only the wreck of dredger 'Vishal'. Seven ship wrecks are lying in the central and southern part of the harbour and the port has planned to remove all of them. All the above vessels do not impede navigation. Five more wrecks are lying outside the port limits and there is no plan to remove them.

*(For statement please refer to the statement annexed to the answer of Unstarred Question 105)